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CIA'S VIETNAM CRIMES EVOKE WIDE INDIGNATION

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(Boris Vasilyev commentary)

STATINTL

(Text) The scandalous exposure of CIA activities in South Vietnam made by American Senator Stephen Young has evoked a colossal explosion of worldwide indignation. Stephen Young and several other congressmen recently visited South Vietnam. On his return to Washington, Young stated in a press interview that a CIA official had told him about the extensive use of U.S. intelligence agents in discrediting the South Vietnamese partisans.

As Young bears witness, according to a plan carefully elaborated in Washington and implemented in South Vietnam, American intelligence sends specially chosen mercenaries from the Saigon puppet troops into areas of National Liberation Forces' concentrations. They receive instructions to terrorize the local population, creating the illusion that these savageries have allegedly been perpetrated by the partisans. Stephen Young mentions in particular a number of cases known to him in which CIA agents killed village elders, violated women, and plundered peasants' homes in those villages situated near partisan detachments.

Our New York correspondent, Aleksandr Druzhinin, reports today that Senator Young's statement raised a real storm in U.S. official circles. A stream of paper with every kind of hastily concocted denial gushed from the State Department and CIA. High-placed officials are literally beside themselves with fury. Behind this fury, however, is an evident loss of reason and panic. The State Department does not hide its fear that Young's statement will inflict an enormous new moral bruise on the United States in the eyes of world public opinion. As our correspondent reports, they hastened to exert strong pressure on the intractable senator in order to make him take back his words or at least soften their import. However, attempts to make Senator Young revoke his statement were unsuccessful. In an interview with the New York HERALD TRIBUNE, he again repeated his assertions that CIA is making use of South Vietnamese mercenaries for perfidious aims and sharply condemned such methods. Thus the world faced the existence of a new perfidious crime by the American military against the South Vietnamese people.

One would have said that barring atomic bombs the occupationists from across the ocean had long ago exhausted all possible means of inflicting suffering on the people. In this respect, it suffices to mention the American scorched earth policy--the use of phosphorous and napalm bombs, chemical weapons, and toxic gases and mass punitive operations resulting in entire villages and their inhabitants disappearing from the face of the earth. American imperialism has already brought terrible and incalculable misfortune to the long-suffering South Vietnamese nation.

When Stephen Young's statement was first published, it was difficult to imagine why Washington had demanded the savage murder of individual peaceful inhabitants.

It would have been absurd to think that by such brigand-like operations the American command expected to change military operations in South Vietnam in its favor. Why then were these barbarous actions carried out? The fact is that the criminal idea behind CIA's attempts, as Stephen Young put it, to discredit the partisans by murdering the peaceful inhabitants of South Vietnamese villages did not have and obviously could not have anything in common with the course of military operations. In the given instance, American intelligence is working for American propaganda by murdering people.

A few days ago, Washington radio's foreign broadcasts more than once repeated reports from Saigon on the violence against and murder of the civil population allegedly by National Liberation Army troops. Pentagon propagandists subsequently observed that the South Vietnamese were being terrorized by the partisans and had dashed in fear of death from them. They then concluded that American troops alone were able to defend the lives of the South Vietnamese people, and that it was for this very purpose that they were being forced to fight on the other side of the ocean.

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